

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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Raleigh, N. C.

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RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 23, 1894

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The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' State Alliance

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N. R. P. A.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Bonds for the banker and bond—dage for the people. Are you for or against such a course?

Edgecombe County Alliance adjourned on account of bad weather and will meet on the 25th.

One of our county Business Agents shipped 681 dozen eggs last week to Northern markets. That is business.

The letter from Hon. J. J. Long, on our first page, is a good one. Many others take the same view of the matter.

The Hickory Mercury says: "All who have dropped out of the Alliance will do well to return. Think of it." Good advice.

We have taken another long backward step. Congressmen are incorporating poetry in their speeches. That is the last straw.

Dun & Co. report 407 failures during the week ending January 20th. For the same week last year, there were 290. That is the way the panic "is over."

"Questions of the Day," by a business man, appears in this issue. Let every business, professional man and farmer read and carefully weigh what he says.

The Senate insists on putting the cart before the horse and is wrestling with the repeal of the Federal election law. That hasn't anything to do with what the country is needing.

The Wilmington Star says: "The proposition to put sweat-bands on the free list, caused a very hot debate in the House of Representatives Monday. Some of the members perspired over it."

Thieves entered the Forsyth county poor house a few nights ago and stole most or all of the meat on hand. Winston should hold another meeting and petition Congress to repeal the Sherman law.

It was alleged that the Sherman law created a lack of confidence. Since the repeal of that law the business failures have ranged from three to five hundred each week. Perhaps that will also create a lack of confidence.

Mr. Hornblower, the New York shyster lawyer who was nominated by the President for the vacancy on the U. S. Supreme Court bench, has been rejected by the Senate. The Supreme Court will have to blow its own horn.

Let the South and West cut loose from New York, both commercially and politically. It can be done and should be. Build up the seaports on the Atlantic and Pacific South and West of New York. Let his Satanic Majesty take New York and welcome.

The free wool clause of the Wilson tariff bill passed the House Wednesday by a majority of ten votes. About an equal number of Democrats and Republicans voted for it. Of course, of course. Free wool and protected woolen goods means a rich harvest for the manufacturer and that is what they wanted with that great big, fat, juicy "chance."

WHERE ARE WE AT?

One of the counted-in statesmen in the Virginia Legislature has introduced a bill in that body, the object of which is "to compel the railroads of the State to furnish all of the State officials, judges, members of the legislature, etc., with free passes." Well, did you ever? Why not go just one step further and compel the railroads to haul everybody free? The last proposition is just as fair as the first. If the Virginia State officials, judges and members of the legislature have clean hands they have done no more for the railroads of the State than any farmer, mechanic or merchant in the State, perhaps not as much. The State pays them salaries that ought to enable them to pay their own railroad fare. Why such discrimination? But they are going to compel the railroads to do this. It is a case of "hands up" while we take a free ride over your blasted old railroad. Men who go to the legislature by the route some of the members of the present session travelled, would hardly care about a little matter like that, however. But where will this thing stop? The man who will "compel" a railroad to carry him free will not only ride, but he will not hesitate to "compel" the owners to give him the road itself for his own private benefit. Editors are pretty cheeky, but we have never heard of one yet who would "compel" a railroad to move his carcass around free. Editors who get passes have something to give in return—advertising space—and the railroads want that and generally manage to get 100 cents on the dollar for all courtesies extended. But the editors do not "compel" the railroads to swap business. Talk about anarchy, highway robbery, centralization, interfering with the rights of others! Well, the Virginia Legislature has won the prize. All competitors can now retire.

We notice that reform is still in the far distant future. Our Democratic friends have the President, 104 majority in the House and 4 majority in the Senate, and still they blame it all on the Republican brethren. It is pretty near time to begin asking for another chance.

THE INCOME TAX.

As we predicted, the income tax has been killed. With a plutocratic administration and a Congress composed largely of plutocrats, this was to be expected. New York opposes it, and, of course, that means death to the measure. If New York should announce the end of the world the present administration would get full of Buffalo beer and order Congress to adjourn, at the same time issuing a special message stating that the devil would finish "the work began and carried on so auspiciously by ME," or words to that effect.

The favorite argument in opposition to the income tax is that it is "inquisitorial," "prying into private affairs." When a citizen of the United States goes to England and comes home, it is not "inquisitorial" to hold his trunk in the custom house, force him to unlock it and go through every article in the trunk. That is done every day. The men who favor that, the protectionists, are the men who oppose the income tax. It is not "prying into a citizen's affairs" for the tax-lister to ask him how much land he owns, how many horses, mules, cattle and sheep he owns. That is done every year. Every citizen is required to return the cash he has on hand, stocks, bonds, solvent credits, etc. Every merchant is required to pay a purchase tax. If that isn't "inquisitorial," then what is? If the income tax isn't fair it is unfair to make anybody pay tax of any kind. If it is fair to tax the poor man it is equally just to tax the rich man. But the combination of Harrisonocracy and Clevelandocracy at Washington are only in favor of taxing the poor.

We have received the first number of *Tobacco*, a weekly trade journal started at Durham. It is handsomely gotten up and full of interesting matter. We learn that the name will be changed to *The Tobacco Review*, owing to the fact that there is already a paper called *Tobacco* published in the United States.

THE UNITED STATES AT AUCTION.

Secretary Carlisle has determined to put the country up at public auction without any "buy-bidders." A full text of his circular is published elsewhere.

It seems that he and his gold bug collaborators are so anxious to get a whack at the bonds that he forges ahead without waiting for Congress to take any action. Under authority of a law passed in 1875, which doubtless was to be resurrected as soon as silver could be demonetized, Secretary Carlisle begins what will be the end of the Republic if continued, and it will never stop

until the best people in all parties throw aside their party affiliations and rescue the government from the hands of spoilsmen.

By carefully reading the circular you will discover that it is full of loopholes. The bonds will be in denominations of \$50 and upward. How many \$50 bonds? Probably not one hundred. "Failure to specify the above particulars may cause the proposals to be rejected." Of course the specifications will be such as to enable the New Yorkers to be the successful bidders. The bonds are to draw 5 per cent. per annum, a higher rate than has been paid on bonds heretofore. The bonds are to go to the highest bidders. It is an easy matter to let certain men know what has been bid and they can better the bids just a little and scoop in the whole lot. The start has been made; where shall it end?

The party with a chance "is using it. The tariff was to be reduced, pensions cut down to an honest basis, money made more plentiful, trusts broken up. Nothing has been done, and now in addition to all the other burdens up the people, they are to pay interest on many millions of 5 per cent. bonds. Is this reform?

The man who will steal your vote by deception in registration, or by throwing out your ballot after it is deposited in the box, would steal your horse or pocket-book just as quickly if he thought the law would not be enforced against him. Ballot-box rogues must be placed on the same footing with other thieves.

WHY BONDS WERE ISSUED.

The New York Times is pretty sharp, but it gives the whole game away in the following editorial in the issue of January 18th:

There is certainly no investment in sight, for a short time or for any time under the term of these bonds, which offers equal advantage in point of security and of return. If there were, there would not be nearly a quarter of a billion of dollars in the New York banks, as there is. Undoubtedly, if it were wholly a question of sustaining the public credit, the financiers of the whole country would do anything necessary to that end. As it happens, it is a question of getting a sure and fair rate of interest on a very small percentage of the idle money that has been piling up at the business centres for the past two months. The credit of the government will at the same time be strengthened and an element of doubt and uncertainty will be removed from a trying situation.

Read the above over twice or three times. Study it and you will see the Wall street game. "There is no investment in sight which offers equal advantage in point of security and return. See? The government must issue bonds to accommodate a few rich New Yorkers who are not willing to invest their money in anything else. Then again: "If it were wholly a question of sustaining the public credit the financiers would do anything necessary to that end." Study that now. The Secretary has claimed all the time that it was necessary. The Times says it is not, and that "it is a question of getting a sure and fair rate of interest on a small percentage of idle money that has been piling up in financial centers for months." Another dead give away. Now mind you, the thing has only started. When the full \$200,000,000 of bonds will have been issued about all the "idle money" will be in the government vaults and the bondholders will be collecting the interest twice a year, thereby contracting the currency far more than at present. Reader, are you going to submit and vote for such a gang again?

Your cousin Billy Nye gives the President's message a hard hitter. His letter appears on the 5th page. The idea of the President of a nation that spends over half a billion dollars annually talking about economizing in the matter of about \$100,000 spent each year to supply farmers with seeds, is too ridiculous for anything.

TESTING CHARITY.

Miss Ethel Warren, a reporter on the Chicago *Ledger*, recently determined to test the supposed philanthropy of Chicago's millionaires in a practical way. She dressed up very plainly and visited the homes of some of the most noted people of that city. At each place she represented herself as a starving woman, having painted her face to make her cheeks appear hollow. She visited the homes of men who have given thousands and millions to establish colleges, fit up libraries and churches. But that charity, if such it may be termed, was for the purpose of "getting their names in the papers." True philanthropy is not a part of their makeup, as she learned for herself. After visiting many mansions she was as hungry as ever. She gave a minute description of everything she observed, who met her at the door and how they talked. The next morning her adventure appeared in the *Ledger*, containing the names of the people she visited. No doubt some of the alleged philanthropists felt very small after reading the article.

THE GRADUATED INCOME TAX.

The graduated income tax plank in the Alliance platform is not a new idea by any means, though the plan suggested is doubtless an improvement. The present Congress made a great noise some weeks ago about the necessity for such a law, but it is likely that the money power has succeeded in stopping legislation in that direction. The income tax has been tried in the United States and proved very satisfactory as a means of raising revenue. The law was finally repealed, we believe, in 1837. Since the war the number of people who have immense incomes has increased greatly, and the income tax is a necessity. Naturally those who would have to pay the tax are opposed to it, but such opposition should not deter our lawmakers.

A "miserable makeshift" is not what the people want. They want a law that cannot easily be evaded, a law that reaches only those who are able to pay the tax—the richer the man the higher the tax. [Those who are fortunate enough to have a large income ought to be willing to pay taxes in proportion.]

Some weeks ago the Secretary of State submitted a number of questions to the United States Consuls in foreign countries where an income tax has been collected. The Consuls have answered, giving full particulars. Their replies have been placed before Congress and published in the *Congressional Record*. We glean a number of facts for general information. In 1798 an income tax law went into operation in England. It was repealed in 1816 and reimposed in 1842 and has been in force since. The first year a tax was imposed on all having an income above \$360 per annum. In this way the tax for the first year amounted to \$7,279,980. The law has been amended many times since, but has never been strictly graduated income tax, hence has never been what we want now. Prussia passed an income tax law in 1851. It was changed several times. The present law, which is a graduated one, has been in force two years and seems to be satisfactory. A small tax is imposed upon all having an income above 900 marks (\$225), the larger the income the higher the tax. Bavaria has a similar law which has been in force since 1848. Baden has had a similar law since 1886. Bremen has had the law since 1848, the tax ranging from 1 to 4 per cent. Austria has been collecting an income tax since the year 1800, except from 1829 to 1849. The amount derived from incomes in 1892 was about \$10,000,000. Italy has had a similar law for some years. The amount derived from this source in 1892 was about \$45,000,000. Switzerland has the most democratic government of any country in the world. She has none of the millionaire or pauper class. Peace and contentment abounds. A "panic" is unknown. Her people are satisfied and rarely ever leave home for any other country. This state of affairs has existed many years, and with the establishment of such an ideal government of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none" came the "initiative and referendum" and a graduated income tax, both being a part of the platform so steadfastly supported by Alliancemen in this country.

In each of the above countries there are rigid laws to enforce the collection of an income tax. Prosperity does not exist in all of them. "Royalty" has too much freedom under a monarchical form of government. "Royalty" has too much freedom here, but if the entire Alliance platform was enacted into law, and the laws properly enforced, "royalty" would have to take a back seat in these United States.

Dr. E. Burke Haywood, of this city, died on the 18th inst., after a brief illness. His death was an irreparable loss to both city and State. He stood at the top in his profession and had lived an honorable, upright life. Nothing better could be said of any man. Grip and pneumonia caused his death. He was about 65 years old.

A VERY NEAT SCHEME.

The New York *Herald* is clamoring for an issue of bonds. That paper claims that a "popular loan" can be made, a loan calculated to lay the bankers and "goldbugs" in the shade. Yes, it actually admits the existence of "goldbugs." The plan is for Secretary Carlisle to issue bonds from \$20 up. This, the *Herald* claims, will give farmers, mechanics, clerks and everybody a chance to purchase the bonds. Let's see about that. Mr. Carlisle issues \$200,000,000 worth of bonds of both large and small denominations. The farmer who has raised 50 and 75 cent wheat can't buy. The mechanic who has been out of work can't buy. The clerk who has either been out of work or is only getting enough to live on can't buy. The farmer who raises cotton at from 5 to 7 cents can't buy. The stock raiser can't buy. Result: The bonds are issued and as fast as the

press can turn them out Mr. Goldbug money bags stands there and buys bonds. That class would buy five \$20 bonds as quick as they would buy one \$100 bond. By the time the news would get out that the bonds were being sold Mr. Goldbug would have every one of them. A few farmers might purchase bonds. A few in all avocations might; but the result would be large additions to the privileged class, the bondholders. The general public would gain nothing, but would lose much.

The *Herald* publishes a number of endorsements of its plan. Every one of them are from bankers in America, France and England. The *Herald* says bankers "reluctantly endorse the plan."

That is a part of the confidence game they are trying to play on the public. They say the bond scheme will be a great boon to the thrifty laboring classes. Of course it will. Every man law, every trust, every scheme, is gotten up in the name of the laboring classes. The sugar trust, the tobacco trust, the steel trust, and everything else is to benefit the farmer and other toilers, but they never reap the benefits. The promoters of these oppressive schemes get all the profit, and the bond issue will result the same way.

Durham county has just borrowed \$3,000 to meet current expenses. There is an annual deficit of about \$6,000 in that county. Fifty years ago, when property was not improved, when our population was sparse, 6 cents on the \$100 worth of property and from 25 to 50 cents on poll paid the State expenses. Durham county is like the State, her expenses are too much.

THAT NEW COOK BOOK.

Mrs. J. G. Carlisle, wife of Secretary Carlisle, has found time to write a new cook book, and has published it. We don't care to give the book much free advertising, even if Mrs. Carlisle is a "society" lady, but the author claims that it contains many new cooking receipts never before published. Here is probably one of the new ones for the construction of a mince pie of the Kentucky variety:

One half gallon of cherry preserves, one half gallon plum preserves, six pounds of stoned and chopped raisins, six pounds of washed and dried currants, three pounds of sliced citron, one dozen large apples peeled and chopped, peeling of two oranges cut fine, eight pounds of chopped suet—no meat, one half gallon of sweet cider, six grated nutmegs, one tablespoonful of ground allspice, one tablespoonful of ground cinnamon, one teaspoonful of ground cloves; mix all well and let come to a boil for a few minutes, then add one and one half gallons of this key; when pies are made add a little more sugar and whiskey.

Perhaps confidence has been restored. At any rate it will require a pretty huge era of prosperity to give the average housekeeper confidence enough to undertake the construction of such a pie. It is possible that some of our largest fruit-growing States may furnish enough fruit to start the foundation. The West Indies could furnish the spice and other "fixins" in about two seasons and a half. Kentucky could be drawn on for the "one and one-half gallons of whiskey" required, but, if our life depended we could not tell where the "little more whiskey" to be added is to come from. After reaching this stage the question naturally arises, what could be done with such a pie? It might be place at some point on our coast and be made to serve as a target for the gunners on our new warships, or, if purchased by the government, could be cut up and used as "coast defences." If a foreign foe should attempt to invade our fair land with a formidable army, the soldiers would get a taste of the pie, gorge themselves and go into a comatose state, falling an easy prey to the members of the various local military companies in this country.

In throwing out the above hints we do not wish to eclipse the Hawaiian or tariff questions. There is plenty of time to settle both questions before a pie can be built. Then Congress can grapple with the mince pie question and see whether or not it would be advisable for the government to purchase a pie and complete our coast defences in time to repel the British or Russian navy. We wish to say in advance that if the foreign naval vessels should make better time on the return voyage than they made coming over, Mrs. Carlisle would be entitled to a premium for the increased speed.

The New York *Herald* says: "It is significant that the only notable objection to Secretary Carlisle's tender of five per cent bonds comes from the Populists." The *Herald* will soon learn that this is a big mistake. When all the people learn how they have been hoodwinked and trampled upon at least eight tenths of them will oppose the outrage with so much vigor that the politicians who are the prime movers and the entire administration will wish they had never heard of a bond.

THE LATEST FROM WASHINGTON.

THE CONGRESSIONAL MILL GRINDS SLOW AND EXCEEDINGLY COARSE.

Mr. Hornblower's Nomination Rejected—The Williams-Settle Case—The Tariff Debate and the Good it Isn't Doing—The Bond Issue—Other News Notes.

[Special Cor. PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 20.—Senator Hill, of New York, has gained an important victory in defeating the confirmation of the President's nominee for the vacancy on the Supreme Court bench. Hornblower's legal ability was shown to be rather slim, and the nomination were far from what they ought to have been. The New York Senator's very slick, bald head shines even more vigorously than heretofore, and it is not surprising that he is actually getting up a reputation as a "court-ing man."

The Williams Settle case is hard to "Settle." It runs up one day and down the next, very much like the thermometer. It is very likely that Settle will hold his seat as representative from the 5th district. Williams is not as good a Democrat in the estimation of some of the Cleveland crowd as Settle, and that may knock Mr. Williams out, no matter how the evidence reads.

The tariff debate is about over. There will be talk and talk, but the set speeches have all been fired and the country is no better off. A tariff for protection and tariff for revenue is the same thing as long as the demand for revenue exceeds the supply. The tariff discussion has brought out nothing new. Jerry Simpson made a very "catchy" speech from the standpoint of a free trader. No matter how logical and eloquent the speeches, the country cannot be benefited by the Wilson bill.

Secretary Carlisle will wish he had never been born when he hears just what the average citizen in all parties thinks of his rushing the bond issue. There will be no end to this the latest outrage. The treasury deficit is due, first, to extravagance that the extra session of Congress ought to have stopped; second, to the panic brought on by the demonetization of silver. The people have been thrown out of work, wages reduced, their business stopped or greatly reduced in volume and the revenues fell off accordingly. Without a change in several matters and the remonetization of silver, the treasury deficit will last forever and even get greater, consequently the bond issue will be perpetual and we will become a nation of bondholders and paupers. We are very much that way now.

Senator Vance continues sick. But he managed to knock out Kope Elias in a few rounds. He has not let up in his fight against the confirmation of Collector Simmons, and something may drop soon. Vance is hard to down. Simmons' scalp may yet dangle beside that of Kope Elias.

The Federal election law is before the Senate. The Hawaiian affair hangs fire. Queen Lil would like to get a chance to roast a few Americans, have a genuine barbecue, but until our government washes its hands, so to speak, she will have to eat roast beef and potatoes.

Senator Walthall, of Mississippi, has resigned, giving as a reason ill health and a desire to try to prolong his life by going to a warmer climate than Washington affords. Many of our Senators will be accommodated to a warmer climate if they will only be patient. The voters of the country have already consigned them to a place where frost is unknown.

P. B. Wimbush, a new candidate for the Oxford postoffice, is one of the many North Carolinians who want to serve their country. He has been here for several days. J. M. Leach, of Waynesville, and John A. Dill, of Reasfort, have been here. It is thought that they wish to sacrifice themselves for their country.

Congressman Johnson, of Ohio, has offered an amendment to the Wilson bill, putting steel rails on the free list. It met with vigorous opposition from both sides of the House. It was finally voted down—79 to 100. That vote ought to prove to Mr. Carnegie and other steel manufacturers that they have nothing to fear from the tariff reformers of this Congress. In fact none of the robbers need be uneasy.

DAVEY CROCKETT.

The New York *Herald* continues to print letters "from the people" every day endorsing the bond issue. "The notice that with but one exception 'the people' are bank presidents. The single exception is a railroad president, and he is probably interested in some hard-See how they are swiping in your hard-earned dollars! Every man, woman and child will have to help pay the interest and suffer by the contraction that will follow.